

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

The claims are amended to address the issue raised in paragraph "3" of the Official Action. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Examiner continue to believe that the claims do not recite statutory subject matter, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that the Examiner's concerns can be more clearly understood.

Before turning to the prior art rejections, a brief discussion of a control apparatus according to at least one disclosed embodiment is provided. The control apparatus includes an XML data input/output interface 113 for receiving command data described in an extensible markup language. The command data includes a control code for initiating a process. An XML data analyzer 114 analyzes the command data. An MFP controller 121 executes the process associated with the control code, and is adapted to read the control code when the control code is included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag, as discussed in paragraph [0048] of the application. As also discussed in that paragraph, the entire command data is in one line of code. Exemplary command data is illustrated in Fig. 3A, where the control code "PrintStart" is included in the single tag <PrintStart/> that functions as both a start tag and an end tag.

Additionally, an XML data generator 111 generates response data obtained by describing, in the extensible markup language, an element having the control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data. Exemplary

response data is illustrated in Fig. 4A, where the control code "PrintStart" is defined in the tag constituted by <PrintStart> and </PrintStart>, and the result of execution of the process is the tagged data "OK". Of course, the claimed invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments.

Turning now to the claims, independent Claim 1 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,042,593, hereinafter Matsushima, in view of U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0174147, hereinafter Wang.

Amended Claim 1 recites a control apparatus including a receiver to receive command data described in an extensible markup language, an analyzer to analyze the command data, wherein the command data includes a control code for initiating a process, and a controller. The controller executes the process which is preliminarily associated with the control code, and is adapted to read the control code when the control code is included in a single tag that functions as both a start tag and an end tag. A response data generator generates response data obtained by describing, in the extensible markup language, an element having the control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data.

Matsushima discloses an image processing device and method. In the method, an HTTP request to a digital multifunction device 1 is generated by a network 9, embedded XML data is analyzed, and a command is extracted, as discussed in lines 4-14 of column 8 of Matsushima. As discussed in lines 15-24 of column 8 of Matsushima and as illustrated in Fig. 8, an exemplary extracted command is "acquire image". As discussed in lines 25-37 of column 8 of Matsushima and as illustrated in Fig. 9, another exemplary extracted command is "print image".

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner stated that Matsushima's Fig. 5 illustrates response data obtained by describing, in extensible markup language, an element having the previously discussed control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of the process as data. Fig. 5 is an example of an image's generated XML data, and Fig. 6 is an explanatory diagram showing the meanings of the XML tags of Fig. 5's XML data. However, the tag <print> is absent from both Figs. 5 and 6, and there is no data corresponding to the result of execution of a print process in the XML data of Fig. 5. Thus, Matsushima does not disclose extensible markup language describing an element having a control code defined in a tag and a result of execution of a process as data, in combination with the other features recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, Wang does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Matsushima.

Claim 1 is therefore allowable over Matsushita, and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Amended independent Claim 17 is allowable for reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 1.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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